



OUR NAME'S THE GAME

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SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our webpage is up and running again. Please check the new version of the site for news and additions.

Nominations are being accepted for the Henry J. Young Award for 2021. The award was moved from June 2020 to June 2021.

We are looking for volunteers – is there anyone who would like to take the position of Director of Publicity and Director of Publications? If interested, please contact us for a description of the responsibilities involved with each position.

#### MEETING DATES:

**Due to restrictions related to COVID-19, pre-reservation seating/tickets are needed for our October and November programs.** Attendance is currently limited to 20 people. Reservations can be made by clicking on <https://www.yorkhistorycenter.org>, then selecting “Events” and then select “Admission Tickets”. SCPGS Meeting Events are free to the public.

**If you are unable to attend in person, this program will also be live-streamed through Facebook.** The event is publicly accessible and no Facebook account is needed. (Over 100 people viewed our program in August).

**We remind our visitors of the following:** All visitors, staff, and volunteers are to wear masks, and contact-less temperature checks will be administered upon arrival. The building will be cleaned and sanitized in high traffic areas, with deep cleaning after the meeting. If you are feeling ill, please do not come to the meeting.

**October 2, 2020 – SCPGS MEMBERS**

Genealogical Adventures during the pandemic quarantine – what have we learned, what did we experience, and what stories do we want to leave behind for future generations ???

**November 1, 2020 – Jean Kilheffer Hess, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society**

Title: Oral History and Genealogy

Description: Oral histories are rich resources that can build family histories beyond names and dates to create a fuller picture of a family's traditions, common personality traits, values, and many other things. This interactive presentation will discuss where to look for existing oral histories and the basics of how to conduct oral history interviews.

Bio: Jean Kilheffer Hess is executive director of Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. As owner of StoryShare, LLC, an oral history interviewing and life story business, Jean has been conducting oral history interviews and assisting clients in sharing family histories for more than a decade. Jean received a Bachelor's degree from Messiah College and a Master's degree from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She lives with her husband, Gale, near Mount Joy.

Attention! No meeting in December.

**GREETINGS FROM IRELAND – ADVENTURES IN GETTING HOME IN MARCH- 17 MARCH 2020**

**For those of you who were able to attend the March meeting – we thought you might want to read Fintan and Gillian's trip after they left York.**

Hi everyone,

What an odd time we live in. I am writing to you from home, in Ireland. The first St Patrick's Day I have spent in Ireland in 10 years and the most odd and quiet St Paddy's Day I can remember.

I wanted to provide everyone with an update, as some hosts are slightly more in the know than the others.

First, on behalf of Gillian and I, can we thank you for your kindness, friendship and care; for agreeing to organise an event in the March 2020 and for putting up with the difficulties that arose as a result of the Coronavirus situation. For the first 5 events on the itinerary that we managed to complete: thanks for a wonderful time, we thoroughly enjoyed the programmes, we hope those who attended found them helpful, and we hope you as organisers felt it was a worthwhile programme to sponsor.

To advise, we flew home from Philadelphia on Sunday evening and arrived back in Ireland yesterday morning.

I am afraid we had to face the inevitable. As late as 4 pm Saturday the Philadelphia event was still on. Then we got an email from our friend Gary in Elizabethtown to say the governor had closed non-essential events in 4 counties and one of them was Bucks Co. where our event today was to be. A little while later I got an email from Carol the President of GSP saying regrettably they have had to cancel.

When Philadelphia had to cancel we felt like that was the straw that broke the camel's back as Carol and her team were moving heaven and earth to try to keep that programme open.

We took the decision then to go home so booked flights with Delta at Sunday lunchtime and flew home that night via Boston to Dublin. Both flights were half empty, so despite the circumstances it was a quite comfortable journey home.

It seems like it was the sensible thing to do going home when we did. It seems certain that things will tighten further and transatlantic flights might dry up and we could have been stranded in the USA. Gillian emailed me last night to say Canada was blocking entry to all but Canadian and US citizens. So as sad as it was to do it, we probably made the right call.

We got in early yesterday morning and I am now at home as is Gillian, both self isolating. I'm stuck with the family cat, while my wife is staying with our youngest daughter! I have to facetime or phone my father, so we are all in a weird new reality. But what can we do but accept it and be thankful things are not worse for us.

It is a pity, what was shaping up to be another great tour ended this way, but everyone's health is more important.

I'll be in contact with each host of the cancelled programmes directly as we try to pick up the pieces.

However, I would like to mention to you an idea, and perhaps you would discuss it with your respective committees and colleagues.

We are mulling on the idea of asking all the hosts of events that had to be cancelled to take a rain check and we maybe try to re-organise for middle October this year. Just a thought we are kicking around. I realise it might not be possible for everyone, and there may well be other events scheduled for October already, and if we are honest we won't really know where we stand with the virus by that stage. But rather than stand and stare at the headlights so to speak, we feel like we should try to do something as a way of possibly overcoming the current difficulty and salvaging something from the turmoil.

To be fair to those societies that had initially reserved the Saturdays and Sundays for March, we should give them first dibs on the Saturdays and Sundays in October. But for the rest of the weekday dates we could be flexible as possible to suit the host, if you are interested. As said,

we know this might not work for everyone, but if we secured a 'critical mass' of interest from the events that had to cancel, we'd be willing to give it a try.

We have a genealogy programme scheduled 5 to 9 October 2020, but we could do any week after that in October if that would work. I realise some organisations will be on lockdown until the end of March so I realise we may not get a response from individual hosts for a couple of weeks. We all have bigger fish to fry at the present time.

You don't need to respond immediately to this suggestion just mull it over.

Meantime we hope you all have a good St Patrick's Day, celebrating in the best manner you can, given the situation.

I am going to break out my bottle of fine 16-year-old Bushmills whiskey – it is like silk – and drink a toast to our American friends and all the family historians we met on this trip. We thank you for your friendship, concerns and prayers, as we all struggled to come to terms with the unfolding situation.

Stay safe everyone.

Slán go fóill (it means 'farewell for a while')

Best regards

Fintan

#### **DECEASED MEMBER – Mardella Brenneman**

Mardella had been a Board Member for several years. She had been our Director of Publicity. She also was responsible for editing "Special Publication #79 – Kreutz Creek Charge: Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths ( 1895-1902 and 1921-1935)". Mardella spent many enjoyable hours reading the Kreutz Creek newsletter and putting the publication together. She also was proud to have found and be able to visit the original homestead of her Fries ancestors in Kreutz Creek.

Mardella Louise Brenneman (Fries)

York Dispatch, The (PA) - Monday, August 10, 2020

Mardella Louise (Fries) Brenneman Mount Wolf - Mardella Louise (Fries) Brenneman, 83, of Mount Wolf, passed away on Sunday, August 9, 2020 at Misericordia Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in York. She was the wife of the late Carl E. Brenneman who died on November 1, 2009. Mardella was born March 31, 1937 in York and was the daughter of the late Eugene and Mary (Ort) Fries. She graduated in 1955 from Manchester High School and owned and operated

Cakes by Mardella from 1962 until 2006. She was a member of Eastside Assembly of God Church, White Rose Cake Club, International Cake Exploration Societe' and the Daughters of the American Revolution and volunteered at the York County History Center. Family was a very important part of Mardella's life. She enjoyed genealogy, puzzling and Bible study groups. Mardella is survived by her sons, Kenneth Brenneman and his wife Lorna of York, David Brenneman and his wife Ellen Hope of Midway, Utah and Michael Brenneman of York; 4 grandchildren, Drew Brenneman, Kyle Brenneman, Sara Lefever and her husband Ryan, Caitlin Kohr and her husband Zach, and her great grandson, Max Kohr. Her graveside service will begin at 10:00 AM, Friday, August 14, 2020 at Manchester Union Cemetery in Manchester. Officiating at the service will be her pastor, Reverend Donald Belch from Eastside Assembly of God Church. Arrangements have been entrusted to The Diehl Funeral Home & Cremation Center of Mount Wolf. In lieu of flowers a memorial contribution may be made to York County History Center, 250 East Market Street, York, PA. 17403 or to the Misericordia Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, 998 South Russell Street, York, PA. 17402.

### **AUGUST MEETING – ADAM BENTZ – “Daily Treasure Trove: How Digitized Local Newspapers Can Advance Genealogy and Local History Research”**

Using newspapers.com for examples, Adam showed that newspapers should be used for historical research and also as a primary source. Newspapers can provide first person accounts that expand a family history by covering major events and also daily lives. They are the ultimate primary source for community reaction to events because they are based on the accounts of actual participants and feelings of those participants. The articles that are written contain local flavor. One can discover unexpected information easily and see events in a historical context. Digitized newspapers are long-term preservation and the means of increasing accessibility to newspapers across the country; they are much easier to use than microfilm or hard copies. OCR searching has made it possible to find more results (although they are not always perfect). Through births, marriages, obituaries, personal stories, and travel mentions much can added to a family history; although these findings can sometimes produce some unexpected and uncomfortable revelations that may require a sympathetic and tactful approach when presented to family members. Thinking “outside the box” by using business names, organizations, addresses can sometimes provide clues. It is necessary to try a variety of searches. Using quotation marks and a range of dates can help to narrow one’s search results. This was an informational presentation that gave insight to the importance of newspapers as an additional research resource. To see a recording of this presentation, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/YorkCountyHistoryCenter>, select “more”, then click on videos, and scroll down to “SCPGS with Dr. Adam Bentz”.

**It Happened To Me:**

I have been abstracting birth, baptism, and marriage records for the town in Croatia from which my immigrant grandmother came. Croatia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the time of the records. When I abstracted births for the years 1875 and 1876, there was a high incidence of deaths of young children. There are no death records at all for this area, but when I saw the list of epidemics on Wikipedia and it showed that in Europe for those years, smallpox killed 500,00 and bubonic plague killed 20,000, I now think it is possible that an epidemic disease may have been the reason for the deaths of those children.

Margaret Bouillon Burg, 2020

**EPIDEMICS IN THE UNITED STATES FROM THE SIXTEENTH TO TWENTY-FIRST CENTURIES****Including some worldwide pandemics of the Nineteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries**

Knowing when and where epidemics strike, may help the genealogist determine if the ancestors were victims of the epidemics as they raged around them.

1592-1596	Measles	Seneca Nation, US & Canada
1616-1620	Yellow Fever, Bubonic Plague, Influenza, Smallpox, Chickenpox, Typhus, Hepatitis B & D	Southern New England; Wampanoag people
1633-1634	Smallpox, Influenza	Massachusetts Bay Colonies; 13 Colonies
1634-1640	Smallpox	Wyandot people, US & Canada
1677-1678	Smallpox	Massachusetts Bay, Boston
1693	Yellow Fever	Boston
1699	Yellow Fever	Charleston, Philadelphia
1702-1703	Smallpox	Lawrence Valley (New France); Canada
1713-1715	Measles	North America
1721	Smallpox	New England
1732-33	Influenza	Thirteen Colonies
1735-1741	Diphtheria	New England, New York, New Jersey
1738-39	Smallpox	North Carolina
1739-1740	Measles	Thirteen Colonies
1747	Measles	Thirteen Colonies
1759	Measles	North America
1760	Smallpox	Charleston
1761	Influenza	North America
1763	Smallpox	North America, Pittsburgh
1770s	Smallpox	Pacific Northwest
1772	Measles	North America
1788	Smallpox	Pueblo Indians
1788	Measles	Nationwide
1793	Influenza	Nationwide
1793-1798	Yellow Fever	Philadelphia
1820	Yellow Fever	Georgia
1822	Cholera	New York City, New Orleans, Major cities

1829-1833	Malaria	Pacific Northwest
1831-1834	Smallpox	Plains Indians
1837	Smallpox	Great Plains
1841	Yellow Fever	Southern States, Louisiana, Florida
1847	Yellow Fever	Southern States, New Orleans
1888-1849	Infections – Measles, Whooping Cough, Dysentery, Influenza	Hawaii
1849	Cholera	New York City, New Orleans, other cities along the Mississippi River
1850	Influenza	Nationwide
1851	Cholera	Great Plains
1852	Yellow Fever	Nationwide, especially New Orleans
1853	Yellow Fever	New Orleans
1855	Yellow Fever	Nationwide
1857-59	Influenza	North America
1861-1865	Typhoid Fever	Nationwide
1862	Smallpox	Pacific Northwest
1865-1873	Typhoid, Yellow Fever, Scarlet Fever	Nationwide
1867	Yellow Fever	New Orleans
1878	Yellow Fever	Lower Mississippi Valley
1889-1890	Influenza	Worldwide
1900-1904	Bubonic Plague	San Francisco
1915-1926	Encephalitis	Worldwide
1916	Polio	Nationwide
1918-1920	Spanish Influenza	Worldwide
1924	Pneumonic Plague	Los Angeles
1924-25	Smallpox	Minnesota
1948 – 1952	Polio	Nationwide

[www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com), York Daily Record, 29 Jan 1920, Page 6

#### INFLUENZA RAVAGES FOUR TOWNSHIPS

Cross Roads, Jan 28. – There are 100 cases of influenza in this vicinity covering parts of Windsor, North Hopewell, Hopewell, and East Hopewell within a radius of ten miles. Only a few cases are severe.

Do you have an “It Happened to Me” short story about your genealogical research that you would like to share with SCPGS members and which would be published in our newsletter? We’d like to hear from you. Send it to SCPGS, P O Box 1824, York, PA 17405 or to our webmaster who will forward it to our newsletter editor. If you have any questions, contact us by US mail or online at our website, [www.scpgs.org](http://www.scpgs.org), and someone will get back to you.

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First-Class Mail

Dated Material